

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 01765 272119Z

20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 DLOS-04 SAM-01 SAL-01 /092 W

----- 016283

R 272043Z APR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7114

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS USUN 1765

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CB

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING BY CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR AT LARGE

THIOUNN PRASITH

1. CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR AT LARGE, THIONN PRASITH, WHO IS PRESENTLY IN NEW YORK FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, HELD A PRESS BRIEFING ON 23 APRIL. THIOUNN PRASITH BEGAN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY ASSERTING THAT ON ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY KAMPUCHEA WAS STRONG AND VIABLE. HE ACCREDITED THE HISTORIC VICTORY IN CAMBODIA TO THE " GREAT SACRIFICES OF THE PEASANTS AND WORKERS" AND THE SUPPORT OF "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE YOUTH AND PROGRESSIVE ELEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES".

2. FOLLOWING THIS THIOUNN PRASITH TURNED TO THE PRESENT SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. HE SAID THE PROBLEM OF FOOD HAD BEEN SOLVED AND ALL FOOD IS BEING PROVIDED WITHOUT ANY FOREIGN HELP. HE STATED THAT THE PRESENT STRENGTH OF KAMPUCHEA WAS ITS NATIONAL UNITY AND THERE ARE "ONLY A FEW TRAITORS" LEFT. THIOUNN PRASITH THEN TURNED TO THE ELECTIONS HELD IN JANUARY FOR THE ASSEMBLY. HE SAID ALL CAMBODIANS WERE FREE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 01765 272119Z

TO VOTE WITH NO REFERENCE TO THEIR PAST. THE REQUIREMENTS

FOR CANDIDATES WERE THAT THEY NEEDED

- 1) TO BE 25 YEARS OLD,
- 2) TO HAVE FOUGHT FOR THE COUNTRY,
- 3) TO BE SINCERE ABOUT THE PRESENT-DAY NATION,
- 4) TO HAVE A DISTRICT POPULATION IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CANDIDACY,
AND
- 5) TO DEMONSTRATE EXEMPLARY MORALS AND BEHAVIOR.

THERE WERE 515 CANDIDATES FOR 250 SEATS IN THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. OF THOSE ELECTED, 50 WERE PEASANTS, 50 WERE FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY, AND OF THE REMAINING 150, ONE-FIFTH WERE WOMEN. ACCORDING TO THIOUNN PRASITH, THE ELECTIONS HAD A "DEMOCRATIC CHARACTER". THE ASSEMBLY MET FOR THE FIRST TIME APRIL 11-13 WHEN IT APPOINTED COMMITTEES.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, THIOUNN PRASITH MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS CONCERNING THE RETURN TO THE COUNTRYSIDE OF PEASANTS FROM PHNOM PENH. HE SAID THAT ONE REASON THE PEASANTS HAD TO BE EVACUATED WAS THAT CACHES OF ARMS HAD BEEN HIDDEN IN PHNOM PENH BY THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE "TRAITOR LON NOL". IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THIOUNN PRASITH, THE AMERICANS WERE PLOTTING TO START A NEW CIVIL WAR IF THE PEOPLE STAYED IN PHNOM PENH. OF THE 2,500,000 PEASANTS THAT HAD FILLED PHNOM PENH "2,200,000 HAD BEEN HAPPY TO GO BACK HOME TO THE VILLAGES." THE EVACUATION WAS NOT DONE UNDER MILITARY EXPULSION BUT THROUGH EXPLANATION THAT TOOK ONE WEEK. THIOUNN PRASITH CLAIMED IT WAS ONLY AMERICAN AND WESTERN PROPAGANDA THAT 500,000-600,000 PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED, EXECUTED OR STARVED IN THE PAST YEAR.

4. IN ADDITION, THIOUNN PRASITH COMMENTED THAT CAMBODIA IS STABLE, THE COUNTRY SECURE, ALTHOUGH FROM TIME TO TIME THERE ARE BOMBINGS SUCH AS THE FEBRUARY 25 ONES BY U.S. PLANES. HE SAID THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT IS OPENING ITS DOORS "TO ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND THE TIME WILL COME WHEN FRIENDLY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 01765 272119Z

JOURNALISTS WILL ALSO BE INVITED BACK."
BENNETT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN01765
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760160-0986
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760415/aaaaamno.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING BY CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR AT LARGE THIOUNN PRASITH
TAGS: PFOR, CB, (THIONN PRASITH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006